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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,
February 29, 1848.

Read and ordered to be printed.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE,

IN RELATION TO THE

MARYLAND HOSPITAL.

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REPORT.

The committee on the part of the House of Delegates, appointed to visit and inspect the present condition of the Maryland Hospital, beg leave respectfully to report:

That they visited this institution, and made a careful examination, under the auspices of the President and Board of Visitors. Your committee must express their gratification at the manner in which this institution is conducted. There are others in the land, no doubt, which possess more advantages, and which have been more richly endowed; but your committee feel proud in saying, that there is none which surpasses this in management, order and cleanliness. The building at present is in very good condition; and, with the exception of some few articles, (which will be found in one of the answers appended,) well furnished. Every thing calculated to render those of our fellow beings, who are its inmates, comfortable and happy, are provided. The institution at present contains one hundred and twenty-two patients, sixty of whom are paupers; the rest private pay patients. From the examination, short as it was, we could not but help noticing the attention paid by the various attendants. We were very peculiarly struck with their gentlemanly bearing, and their high moral worth. We would not pass a studied eulogy upon their unobtrusive merit, satisfied that they have their reward, in the solacing conviction of having done the most difficult of all things, that of ministering to diseased minds; and many an intellect shrouded in darkness, restored through their instrumentality to consciousness and light, will ever heap upon them their grateful benedictions. With a resident physician, who devotes his whole time for their good, and in whom we found all the attributes calculated to ensure success; and a matron, who with praiseworthy zeal and energy, is constantly ministering to the wants of the inmates, we cannot but hope that this institution will be most speedily advanced, and that its great design, prompted by the most benevolent and Christian motives, will e'er long become one of Maryland's brightest ornaments. We would also tender our acknowledgments to the Board

of Visitors, and especially to the President, who has with such indefatigable zeal and ardor labored for the promotion of this truly benevolent institution, and the bettering the condition of those amongst us who have been so unfortunate as to be bereft of reason, without which life is not even desirable. We are of the opinion that the State of Maryland is under lasting obligations to this gentleman, for he has almost literally spent his life in this praiseworthy undertaking, advancing his own means (as we found by an examination of the books) oftentimes, and always evincing a desire to be useful to his fellow unfortunate beings.

The committee would further state, that the present application for aid has been rendered necessary by the erection of a resident physician's house, the paving of streets, and the carrying out the intention of the legislature, by the passage of a law some few years since, for the purpose of enlarging its limits. Your committee could not but see the actual necessity for the above grant; the yard of the Hospital being entirely too contracted for the comfort even of a far less number of patients than are at present in the institution. Your committee are fully sensible of the importance, at the present time, of strict economy, and could not, but for the pressing necessity of the case, recommend the withdrawal of a dollar from the treasury of the State. Viewing this institution, with its noble designs, and from examination being persuaded, not only of the deserved merit, but in fact of the necessity and justice of the memorial, do recommend the passage of the following resolution:

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Treasurer of the Western Shore, be and he is hereby authorised and directed to pay to the President and Visitors of the Maryland Hospital, or to their order, the sum of five thousand dollars, after the passage of this resolution, to be by them applied for the benefit and improvement of said Hospital; provided, the said President and Visitors shall give bond and security, to be approved by the Treasurer, for the faithful disbursement and application of said sum of money.

Your committee would state, that in compliance with an order passed on February 10th, they visited the Maryland Penitentiary, for the purpose of examining the condition of the insane therein. There is at present sixteen now confined in the Maryland Penitentiary, who are either insane or idiotic, three only of whom require actual confinement, the rest being able at times to work. The Maryland Hospital being now full, your committee are at a loss what to recommend, their condition certainly requiring that something should be done. Annexed to this report will be found some queries, with replies thereto, to which we desire to call the attention of the legislature. Some of the inmates, we regret to say, have been convicted and sentenced when in a state of idiocy.

The committee under the same resolution visited Baltimore city and county alms house, and they cannot but express their regret, that in this enlightened age there should be found in the State

of Maryland, so much of unhappiness, and such sad spectacles as we were called upon to witness. Many of these also are from the different counties, and some foreigners. Your committee can only hope and recommend that some place should be provided wherein their unhappy lot may be ameliorated by the soothing care of those who will be willing to give them their undivided attention. The committee would not be misunderstood—to the trustees of the alms house, we are very much indebted for their kindness, and none are so unhappy, being obliged to witness the sufferings of their fellow-beings, without being able to extend the desirable relief; but the object and arrangements of this building being intended for other purposes, prevent their making preparations for the comfort of said insane. The trustees have recommended that an insane institution be erected by the city of Baltimore, for the use of said insane. Their calculation is, that six thousand dollars, with the aid of the pauper labor, will erect a building sufficiently large to accommodate the present number of insane now within the Baltimore city and county alms house. Should this be decided upon, your committee thinking it but right, would recommend, that the State should aid, and that most liberally, to said erection.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

CHA'S R. HOWARD, Chairman.

QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO MARYLAND HOSPITAL.

No. 1. What number of lunatics are now in the Maryland Hospital?

2. What is the average number of the same requiring seclusion?

3. How many rooms properly warmed and fitted up for such lunatics as require seclusion, have you now in the Hospital?

4. What extent of ground do you suppose the present limits of the Hospital comprises?

5. What number of officers are employed in the Hospital, and what are their respective salaries?

6. What is the amount of debt, and for what purposes has it been contracted?

7. Do the several counties regularly pay and transmit the amount due for the pauper lunatics?

8. What is the probable number of lunatics from the State of Maryland in the Hospitals of the different States?

9. Why is it that insane persons from other States are admitted into the Maryland Hospital?

10. Will the annual receipts of this institution meet its current expenses, not including the necessary improvements?

11. When did the institution receive its last donation from the State? Please state also the amount given, and the purposes for which it was used?

12. What would be the probable cost, should the insane paupers now in the Penitentiary, and the different Alms Houses of the State, be removed to the Hospital, to erect additional buildings and provide furniture?

13. Why is it that the institution does not receive the insane of the Baltimore city and county Alms House?

14. At what rate could you afford to carry on this institution, supposing it to be converted into a Pauper Lunatic Asylum?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PROPOUNDED RELATIVE TO MARYLAND HOSPITAL.

Answer to No. 1. Sixty-two private pay patients, and sixty pauper lunatics.

Answer to No. 2. The average number requiring seclusion is twenty five.

Answer to No. 3. Sixty properly warmed, and forty-two not so well warmed.

Answer to No. 4. Including the lot purchased by the State some ten years since, but which is not yet enclosed, I should suppose about ten acres.

Answer to No. 5. Resident Physician at fifteen hundred dollars per year, with fuel, house and marketing found; a President at $500 per year; a steward at $250 per year; a matron at $250 per year; chaplain $100 per year; house keeper $100 per year;

seamstress, chief $100 per year; seven male attendants, at $12 per month; one male attendant at $10 per month; one male attendant at $7 per month; one male attendant at $5 per month; one baker at $9 per month. Females—two cooks at $8 per month; six nurses at $7 per month; four nurses at $6 per month; three nurses at $5 per month.

We keep two carriages and a pair of horses for the use of the Hospital.

Answer to No. 6. The debt was on the 1st January, about sixteen thousand dollars; eight thousand five hundred due for the resident physician's house; fifteen hundred for the improvement of street; the balance is due for the expenses of the institution for 1846 and '47.

To meet that debt, we have due of good money collectable within eighteen months, six thousand five hundred dollars; an available fund of four thousand dollars to meet liabilities, will be received this year; leaving a deficit of five thousand five hundred dollars.

Of the above sixteen thousand, five thousand is now due to the Bank of Baltimore, three thousand to mechanics on the house, and eight thousand due for current expenses for '46 and '47.

The president and directors ask for five thousand dollars from the State; hoping confidently to meet the remainder of the debt themselves, not to make further improvements—many of which, however, are greatly needed for the comfort and well being of the patients—such as water closets, bathing establishments, remodelling of some of the original furnaces, and surrounding the institution with a proper wall.

This has reference, however, only to the present number of patients; should it be deemed advisable by the legislature, to consider the abject condition of those in the Baltimore Alms House, numbering about eighty-six, and those in the Penitentiary numbering sixteen, and some fifteen in the various alms houses of the different counties. It would involve the enlargement of this institution to accommodate one hundred and twenty more, or a construction of some suitable building elsewhere for the same purpose. The president and directors think it would be decidedly more economical to add to the present building, than to build elsewhere. This institution can by being crowded accommodate about one hundred and thirty.

Answer to No. 7. Most of the counties are very much wanting in regularity of transmitting their pay, nearly always being obliged to pay commission for collection of the same.

Answer to No. 8. At least fifty.

Answer to No. 9. Because the State requires one half of the hospital to be kept for the pauper lunatics, who could not be maintained at $100 per year each; and it is necessary that an equal number of patients called private boarders, should be received at a higher price, averaging four dollars per week each; the profit on which covers the necessary disbursements of the institution.

Answer to No. 10. We have never expended one dollar of the State's money, either in salaries or its current expenses; on the contrary the president and directors have expended five thousand dollars towards the improvement of the house.

Answer to No. 11. In the year 1838, the legislature appropriated thirty thousand dollars to this institution, five thousand to be drawn annually for six years, which, however, yielded only twenty-four thousand, the whole of which was laid out upon the west wing building and other improvements which cost altogether thirty-one thousand dollars. The difference of seven thousand dollars, having been liquidated by the president and visitors independent of the State.

Answer to No. 12. About fifty thousand dollars.

Answer to No. 13. Baltimore county has always declined sending her insane to the hospital, except at a rate far less than the present of one hundred dollars per year; and the number also, is so great as would make it impossible for us to receive one-fourth of them with due regard to the rights of other counties. The city of Baltimore has always had its full compliment, there being at this time full one-third of the paupers of the State from the city of Baltimore.

Answer to No. 14. The president and directors think they could support one hundred and fifty paupers at one hundred dollars per year; but could not support a lesser number at the above price, but to carry out the above, it would be absolutely necessary that the institution should realize the whole amount of fifteen thousand dollars per annum, and which must also be promptly and regularly paid.

QUESTIONS PROPOSED TO THE WARDEN OF MARYLAND PENITENTIARY.

No. 1. Please state the present number of insane and idiot convicts, now confined in the Maryland Penitentiary?

No. 2. Please state their names, places of nativity, crimes, places, where convicted, how long insane or idiotic, and complexion?

No. 3. Will you tell us the time of their servitude, when to expire, and the prospect of their recovery?

QUESTIONS PROPOSED TO MR. JACKSON, OVERSEER OF BALTIMORE CITY AND COUNTY ALMS HOUSE.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PROPOUNDED TO WARDEN OF MARYLAND PENITENTIARY.

A STATEMENT shewing the number of Insane and Idiot convicts confined in the Maryland Penitentiary, February 19th, 1848, together with their names, places of nativity, crimes, places where convicted, how long insane or idiotic, complexion, time of servitude, expiration of servitude, and prospect of recovery.

Number.	NAMES OF CONVICTS.	Places of Nativity.	Crimes.	Places where convicted.	How long Insane or Idiotic.	Complexion.	Time of servitude.	Expiration of servitude.	Prospects of Recovery.
1	John Keller,	Germany,	Stealing,	Prince George's county,	Insane when sent here,	white,	8 years,	25th April 1851,	No prospect of recovery.
2	Dennis Lowrey,	Ireland,	Murder,	Cecil county,	2 years insane,	white,	10 years,	9th April 1848,	Prospect of recovery doubtful.
3	Charles H. Parmalee,	Connecticut,	Forgery,	Prince George's county,	When sent here insane,	white,	2½ years,	24th May 1849,	No prospect of recovery.
4	John B. Gaines,	Virginia,	Passing counterfeit money,	Baltimore city,	do do	white,	5 years,	28th June 1849,	Recovery possible, though doubtful.
5	John Shiles,	Delaware,	Stealing and Burglary,	Dorchester county,	do do	white,	5 years 7 months,	1st June 1848,	do do
6	Jacob Reese,	France,	" "	Frederick,	Supposed insane on admission,	white,	13½ years,	8th September 1856,	do do
7	William Dowos, (6th time.)	Baltimore city,	Felony,	Baltimore city,	Idiotic when admitted,	white,	2½ years,	2nd April 1850,	Recovery doubtful.
8	John Roberts,	Boston, Mass.	Stealing,	Baltimore city,	18 months since insane,	white,	2 years 10½ months,	29th August 1848,	Prospects of recovery favorable.
9	Anton Meyer,	Germany,	Stealing,	Baltimore city,	Idiot by nature,	white,	2 years,	17th May 1849,	No prospect of recovery.
10	John Vernillion,	Prince George's county, Md	Stealing,	Prince George's county,	Idiotic when admitted,	white,	2 years,	26th April 1849,	do do
11	George Mattox,	Somerset county, Md.	Murder,	Somerset county,	do do	white,	9 years 5½ months,	1st June 1855,	do do
12	George Johnson,	Baltimore city,	Stealing,	Baltimore city,	Insane 2 years,	black,	4 years,	30th August 1848,	do do
13	Joseph Whittington,	Somerset county, Md.	Assault with intent to commit a Rape,	Somerset county,	Insane when admitted,	black,	5 years, 4½ months,	1st May 1848,	do du
14	John Weaver,	Virginia,	Stealing,	Baltimore city,	Insane 1 year,	black,	3 years,	3rd April 1849,	Prospect of recovery favorable.
15	Robert Allen,	Queen Anne's county, Md.	Harboring runaway slave,	Queen Anne's county,	Insane 2 years,	black,	5 years,	6th May 1848,	do do
16	Elias Nugent,	Montgomery county, Md.	Felony,	Montgomery county,	Idiotic when admitted,	black,	4½ years,	9th May 1851,	No prospect of recovery.

MARYLAND PENITENTIARY, Baltimore, February 19th, 1848.

WM. JOHNSON, Warden of Maryland Penitentiary.

QUESTIONS PROPOSED TO MR. JACKSON, OVERSEER OF BALTIMORE CITY AND COUNTY ALMS HOUSE.

Question 1. What is the number of insane persons in the Baltimore city and county alms house?

Question 2. What proportion of them are from the city, and county of Baltimore and the State of Maryland at large?

Question 3. Is any medical treatment being now used for their restoration?

Question 4. Would it not be advisable for them to be removed to an insane institution, in fact are they not now in a state of suffering, requiring that something should be done for them, which the nature of the present institution will not admit of?

Question 5. What proportion of paupers in the Baltimore alms house, come from the different counties of the State.

Question 6. Have the trustees of the alms house ever requested that the insane (now within their control) should be admitted into the Maryland hospital, if they have, please state whether the request has been denied.

Question 7. Are there any insane persons in the institution from other States, and if so, what is the number.

MR. JACKSON'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PROPOUNDED BY THE COMMITTEE.

Answer 1. At this date nearly ninety—on the first of January last eighty-five.

Answer 2. It would be impossible to answer this question, with any degree of accuracy, as the greatest portion of this class of paupers, are picked up in the streets of the city of Baltimore by the police officers, and sent out without knowing their place of residence and it is with great difficulty we get their names, and very often never get any history of them.

Answer 3. In the greatest number of cases, but little unless in sickness; in those cases where the persons are but recently attacked with insanity, the medical department of the house applies remedies. I have known several such relieved, leaving the institution apparently cured.

Answer 4. There are at this time nearly ninety inmates of various conditions of insanity in the institution that ask in voiceless, but appealing supplication for sun, light, air, and a comfortable resting place. The crowded state of the building compel the trustees to assign to that unfortunate class, apartments unsuited to any of the inmates; the apartments assigned to the insane males in particular are dark, cheerless and uncomfortable. Enlightened humanity has broken down the system which consign the poor maniac to the cells, the jacket and chains. Unless a suitable building shall be erected for their accommodation, the unpleasant spectacle of their

wretchedness will continue to haunt those, who from time to time may conduct the operations of the institution.

Answer 5. Table showing the birth places of the persons admitted into the alms house from 1st of January to 31st December 1847, inclusive.

Alms House,	46		
Baltimore city,	323		
Baltimore county,	85		
Remainder of Western Shore,	114		
Eastern Shore,	118		
Maine,	2		
New Hampshire,	2		
Massachusetts,	8		
Vermont	1		
Rhode Island,	2		
	701		
From other States,	172		
Natives,	873	Foreigners,	853
			873
Total,			1,726

Answer 6. Not to my knowledge, nor do I know if they have the authority.

Answer 7. It is impossible to give a definite answer to this question, for the reasons stated in the answer to the second question. It is very evident, from the dialect of a majority of the insane in this institution, that they are foreigners.

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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,
March 1st, 1848.

Read and ordered to be printed.

COMMUNICATION

FROM

WILLIAM PRICE, ESQ.

LATE DIRECTOR IN THE

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.